M.R.T.P. to check unfair advertisements

1425. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether M.R.T.P. have taken a decision to check unfair advertisements and if so, the details of the decision taken;

(b) whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has stepped up its activities to protect the consumer on 'unfair advertisements' of newspapers, magazines and TP programmes to spot advertisements which are likely to be violative of the provisions relating to restrictive and unfair trade practices of the MRTP Act;

(c) if so its achievements in this regard and how the MRTPC have activated itself so far in exercising the wide-ranging powers given to it by last year's amendment to the MRTP Act; and

(d) how far the Commission has succeeded in conducting enquiries into sales promotion through contests and games and to discontinuancy of such unfair practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Sections 36B, 36C, 36D and 36E of the M.R.T.P. Act, 1969 provide for a statutory duty on the part of the M.R.T.P. Commission to take necessary action with regard to unfair trade practices, as defined under Section 36A of the said Act.

(b) and (c) The provisions relating to unfair trade practices came into force with effect from 1-8-1984. Since then and upto 31-10-1985, M.R.T.P. Commission received 259 cases alleging unfair trade practices. The Commission instituted enquiries in 152 such cases and passed final orders in 46 cases. In 80 cases the Commission formed the view that they did not merit any further action. The remaining 27 cases are pending with the Commission for want of requisite information from the parties concerned.

(d) M.R.T.P. Commission either passes appropriate orders directing the parties concerned not to indulge in unfair trade practices or close the enquiries on the basis of evidence before it. As far as the cases relating to sales promotion through contests/lotteries are concerned, the Commission has passed orders in 7 such cases.

Special courts for tax-evaders

1426. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make the special courts, set up to deal with tax-evaders more effective; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Special Courts have been set up by some State Governments exclusively to deal with cases pertaining to the economic offences under the twelve specified Central Acts including the Income Tax, 1961. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territory of Delhi have established or earmarked separate courts specified Central Acts. The State Governments of Gujarat and West Bengal have also been requested to set up such courts.